

7 May 1964

Dear Mike:

I appreciate the attention you gave to the matter I discussed with you on the telephone and, while I regret the decision you made as explained in your telegram of May 6th, nevertheless I recognize it is within your province to make such a decision.

I continue to be disturbed over the book. Perhaps I am unduly agitated but in my position trying to operate a very large world-wide organization properly in the interests of the United States and, indeed, Free World security, and in competition with most aggressive foreign intelligence services of the Soviet Union and other Communist states, I cannot help but be increasingly concerned with matters of security, protection of sources and methods, protection of cover and avoiding giving propaganda platforms to those who would like to destroy the effectiveness of this organization. This the book is designed to accomplish and the extensiveness of your readership will, I am afraid, enormously assist.

With respect to your observation that there is little told in the book that is new, I agree that most of the things said have been said before in one form or another. However it is one thing for an isolated statement to appear in a news report or in a column, occasionally by writers of questionable responsibility, and it is quite another thing to assemble the whole spectrum of statements into one book and defend this publication on the basis of these references. I continue to feel that this book will do great harm to the United States and to the Free World and will afford the Communist movement a great propaganda weapon.

I, like you, understand that both Mr. Ross and Mr. Wise are competent, respected Washington correspondents. They represent responsible papers. However you will be interested in a memorandum of conversation that I had with these gentlemen on August 20, 1963 in which they informed me of the book which they had in mind writing. I invited them to return and discuss the book as their work progressed. This they failed to do although Mr. Wise lunched with me in my office 10 days ago and failed to mention the book. I asked that they submit the transcript

See also -

to be checked for accuracy and for security. This they failed to do. In opening the book they indicate that they are not breaching security; however I can find no one responsible for protecting security to whom they submitted their transcript. Certainly it was not brought to our attention.

Finally, there are some areas of this book which involve disclosures of a most damaging nature. Since you undoubtedly will be publishing only sections of the book and your readership will be many, many times that of the book itself, I ask that you give consideration to eliminating these particular paragraphs or references. If this is agreeable I would like to have General Marshall S. Carter, Deputy Director of Central Intelligence, call on you promptly and point out the particular points I have in mind with the hopes that they might be eliminated from your articles. I will call you tomorrow to see if this suggestion has merit from your standpoint.

Regards,

Signed

John A. McCone
Director

Attachment

Memo of Conv. - David Wise & DCI on 20 August 1963

JAM/mfb

Distribution:

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Mr. Gardner Cowles

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